

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A composition comprising cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast belonging to *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*, wherein said composition contains an amount of said at least one yeast sufficient to reduce cholesterol when administered to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): The composition of claim 1 which contains an amount of ~~A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient,~~ *Kluyveromyces marxianus* sufficient to reduce cholesterol when administered to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The composition of claim 1, which is a food or drinks for reducing cholesterol containing a yeast as recited in claim 1.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor containing a yeast as an active ingredient.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A food and/or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production containing a yeast as recited in ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A method for producing the composition of claim 1 ~~the production of a cholesterol lowering agent~~, comprising:

admixing *Kluyveromyces marxianus* with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A method for producing the composition of claim 1 ~~the production of a cholesterol lowering agent~~, comprising:

admixing *Kluyveromyces lactis* with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A method for the production of the composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is a food and drink, ~~for reducing cholesterol~~ comprising:

incorporating *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* into a food or drink.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method for the production of a secondary bile acid production inhibitor comprising admixing a yeast with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A method for the production of a food or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising incorporating a yeast as recited in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 into a food or drink.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising ~~administration~~ administering to a subject in need thereof the

composition of claim 1 ~~of at least one yeast belonging to *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising ~~administration~~ administering the composition of claim 2 ~~of *Kluyveromyces marxianus*.~~

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A treatment method for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising administration of a yeast.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A The composition of claim 1, which is a food or drink comprising at least one yeast belonging to *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A The composition of claim 1, wherein said composition is a food or drink comprising an amount of *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* sufficient to reduce cholesterol in a subject ingesting said food or drink.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The ~~food or drink of~~ composition of claim 21, which comprises *Kluyveromyces marxianus*.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) The ~~food or drink of~~ composition of claim 21, which comprises *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) The ~~food or drink of~~ composition of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are live cells.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) The ~~food or drink of~~ composition of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are heated cells.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The ~~food or drink of~~ composition of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a lyophilized product.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) The ~~food or drink of~~ composition of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a milled product.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said yeast is *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are live cells.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are heated cells.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a lyophilized product.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a milled product.